

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

It is known that for many users, their email and instant messaging communications (also referred to as textual or non-verbal communications) often involve the use of emoticons, such as the “smiling face” or the “sad face”. However, few email or instant messaging applications offer any assistance to a user to enter and use emoticons in their communications. Some instant messaging applications offer the minimal assistance of converting or replacing a handful of widely used emoticon forming sequences of characters to corresponding graphical symbols. For example, when the characters “:” (colon), “=” (equal sign) and “)” (right parenthesis) are successfully entered, some instant messaging applications automatically replace the entered characters with the graphical symbol “☺—”.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

Removable or interchangeable cover endowed with the capabilities to personalize or enhance the functionalities of a communication device is the subject matter of provisional application number ~~<to be inserted>~~ 60/306,326, entitled “Personalizing Electronic Devices and Smart Covering”, filed on July 17, 2001. The specification of the provisional application is hereby fully incorporated by reference.